

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, GW, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING AND FRG POSITION

MANILA FOR USADB AND DEP ASST SEC EDMOND

REF: BONN 06190

1. NEWS OF FRG DISINCLINATION TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT FORMATION
OF DONOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAOS IS DISTRESSING,
EXPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PAST FRG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LAOS.

2. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO
APPROPRIATE FRG OFFICIALS BEFORE APRIL 28-29 MEETING OF
DONORS AT MANILA:

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A. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND FRG CONCERN THAT PARTICIPATION IN DONOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR LAOS WOULD INVOLVE FRG IN A FORUM HAVING 'BROADER POLITICAL GOALS CONCERNING FUTURE OF INDOCHINA' (REFTEL, PARA 1). WE SEE PROPOSED GROUP'S OBJECTIVE AS NARROWLY FOCUSED ON COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LAOS. THIS WOULD BE GROUP'S EXCLUSIVE FUNCTION.

B. WE HAVE SEEN NO RPT NO INDICATIONS THAT PATHET LAO OPPOSE FORMATION OF THE GROUP. ON THE CONTRARY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FINANCE, BOUSBONG SOUVANNAVONG, WHO IS FROM PATHET LAO SIDE, WILL BE ONE OF LAO REPS AT MANILA MEETING. SINCE PGNU OPERATES ON RULE OF UNANIMITY, FACT THAT LAOS IS ATTENDING MEETING IMPLIES PATHET LAO SUPPORT. THE PATHET LAO HAVE MADE PLAIN THEIR PREFERENCE TO CONTINUE THE PGNU'S AID RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND HAVE LIKEWISE ENCOURAGED NEW OR EXPANDED DONOR RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

3. FRG PARTICIPATION AT MANILA MEETING IS LIKELY TO HAVE SIGNIFICANT AFFECT ON OTHER AID DONORS. IF GERMANS ASSUME PESSIMISTIC TONE, SUCH AS REPORTED REFTTEL, THEIR PRESENCE AT MANILA MAY WELL PUT THE BRAKES ON PROGRESS TOWARD OUR GOAL OF SEEING GROUP FORMED. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO REASSURE THE GERMANS. KISSINGER

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